

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: NO, OVIP (BROWN, HARLD)
SUBJ: SECDEF'S VISIT: NORWEGIAN SOCIAL PRACTICES

1. DINNER TABLE ETIQUETTE IN NORWAY ALWAYS INCLUDES THE CEREMONY OF A WELCOME TOAST BY THE HOST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEAL CALLED "VELKOMMEN TIL BORDS" ("WELCOME TO TABLE"), AND A RESPONDING TOAST BY THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THE END OF THE MEAL CALLED THE "TAKK FOR MATEN" ("THANKS FOR THE FOOD"). IN NORWAY, THE GUEST OF HONOR NORMALLY SITS TO THE LEFT OF THE HOSTESS.

2. THE WELCOMING TOAST WILL NORMALLY BE GIVEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SOUP COURSE HAS BEEN SERVED. IT IS NOT POLITE TO DRINK YOUR WINE UNTIL AFTER THE WELCOMING TOAST HAS BEEN MADE.

3. DURING THE MEAL, GUESTS FREQUENTLY TOAST "SKAL (PRONOUNCED SKOHL) ONE ANOTHER BY RAISING THE GLASS AND LOOKING IN THE EYES OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE TOAST IS ADDRESSED. A "RUND SKAL" (RUHND SKOHL) OR GENERAL TOAST INCLUDES THE ENTIRE TABLE AND ONE TRIES TO INCLUDE AS MANY OTHER GUESTS AS POSSIBLE IN EYE CONTACT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER DRINKING.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEAL WHEN GUESTS HAVE FINISHED THEIR DESSERTS, THE GUEST OF HONOR GIVES HIS "TAKK FOR MATEN" TOAST. THE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO THANK THE HOST AND HOSTESS FOR THEIR FOOD AND COMPANY, THOUGH IT IS ALSO THE OCCASION FOR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OSLO 01483 310830Z

ANY SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE. THE TOAST IS GENERALLY INFORMAL AND BRIEF -- NOT MORE THAN 5-7 MINUTES. A BIT OF HUMOR IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED. AT THE END OF YOUR REMARKS YOU SHOULD RAISE YOUR GLASS AND ASK THE OTHER GUESTS TO JOIN YOU IN SAYING "TAKK FOR MATEN" (PRONOUNCED: TAHK FOR MAH-TEN).
BREMER

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